

REMARKS

The present amendment and remarks are in response to the Final Office Action entered in the above-identified case and mailed on April 8, 2003. Claims 1-9, 11, 13, 15, and 16 are pending in the application. All stand finally rejected. Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,089,717 to Oi et al. Claims 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,621,486 to Doany et al. Claims 2-4 and 6-8 were rejected over the combination of Doany et al. and Oi et al., and claims 13-16 were rejected over Doany et al. and Kobayashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,11,700. Applicants have canceled claims 1-8, amended claims 9, 11, and 13, and added new claims 37 and 38. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

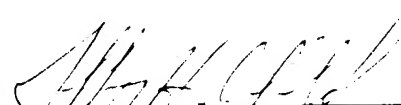
Independent claims 9, 11, and 13 each include, among other things, a plane polarization conversion means and a polarization separation element. This combination of features is not taught or suggested by Oi et al., Doany et al., or Kobayashi et al., either alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

New claims 37 and 38 are also new and non-obvious over art of record and should be allowed.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the final rejection, enter the present amendment, and move the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Jeffrey H. Canfield

Reg. No. 38,404

P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4233

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